

Renaming Jackson Park



The past, present, and future



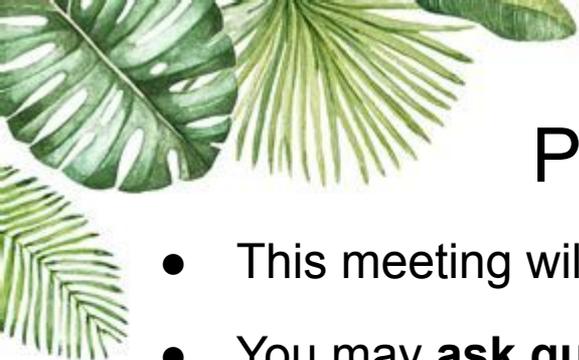
The purpose of this presentation is to

- Uphold our commitment to making the renaming process as **transparent** as possible
 - Explain why the park needed to be renamed and describe the **history** of the renaming effort
 - **Educate** the community about the top 10 list of names
 - Gather **feedback** from the community about these 10 names before we make a final list of name recommendations to the Recreation and Parks Commission
- 



Agenda

1. 30 minute presentation about the renaming process and history of the park
 2. Group feedback and discussion session with interactive polls
- 



Procedure & Expectations

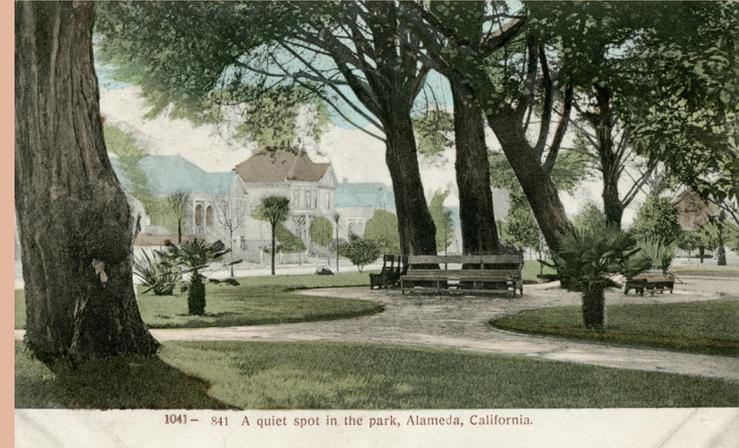
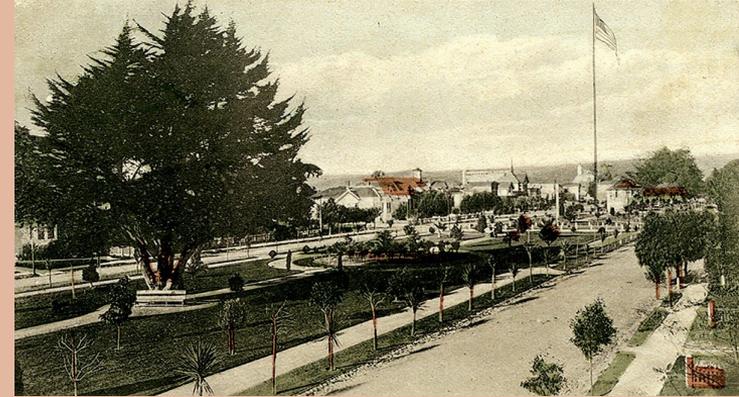
- This meeting will be **recorded and shared on social media**.
 - You may **ask questions and make comments in the chat** during the presentation and discussion. We might not answer your question right away.
 - Please be respectful, brave and listen with an open mind.
- 



Brief history of the Park

Early history of the land & park

- The Ohlone people were the original inhabitants and stewards of the land. They were forcibly relocated, enslaved, or killed when colonization began in the late 1700s. Spain 'gifted' a vast track of the coastal East Bay to Luis Peralta, whose family ownership continued under Mexican rule. Part of his son's track, Encinal de San Antonio, was purchased in 1851 and named Alameda in 1853.
- Alfred A. Cohen, an English immigrant and financier, bought a land tract in Alameda, where he helped build the railroad and ferry, the resort Alameda Park Hotel, and Alameda Park housing development. In 1867, he created the oval shape of the park as a semi-private garden for residents, modeled after London's garden squares.
- By 1890, residents clamored for "improvement" of the park, leading to the transfer of land to the city and landscaping with winding walks, wide lawn, and a variety of trees (including exotic palms fashionable at the time in both European and Californian landscaping).
- In 1895, it became Alameda's first public park, referred to as Alameda Park; no available documentation confirms that this name was official.



1041 - 841 A quiet spot in the park, Alameda, California.

Two colorized photo postcards of the early park's landscaping, both postmarked 1908

Andrew Jackson & his Legacy

- A plantation owner, Jackson owned about 300 enslaved people during his lifetime.
- His career in law & military focused on stealing land from Indigenous peoples, by:
 - defying treaties with Cherokee & Chickasaw peoples using the 1783 Land Grab Act,
 - defeating Muscogee (Creek) armies, including destroying 15% of their population and demanding surrender of 23 million acres of their land, and
 - leading an aggressive military campaign against the Seminole people.
- As President (1829-37), Jackson continued to promote white supremacy, while also expanding executive power & limiting the role of the federal government, through:
 - signing the Indian Removal Act, authorizing 'exchange' of tribal lands in the southeast for land in the west (present Oklahoma) in order to expand the plantation economy;
 - personally participating in the law's implementation, the forced migration and ethnic cleansing/genocide of over 60,000 people from Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek, Seminole & Ponca tribes, an event now commonly referred to as the "Trail of Tears";
 - lowering tariffs to appease enslavers in the south during the Nullification Crisis;
 - limiting free speech of northern abolitionists by censoring their mailings;
 - implementing a spoils system with a rotating cabinet of cronies & personal advisors;
 - opposing federal infrastructure projects as government overreach; and
 - weakening the national bank, which resulted in a major recession in 1837.



Colorized copy of daguerreotype of Jackson in 1845, by Thomas Doney

Naming of Jackson Park

- In 1909, the park was officially named Jackson Park, at the same time as 3 other parks: Lincoln, McKinley & Washington.
- The reason for selecting Andrew Jackson's name amongst the four presidents is unknown. Possible factors could include:
 - praise for his 'populism' (valued during the Progressive Era),
 - recognition of his role in western expansion, and/or
 - equal representation of both political parties in the selection (Washington was independent; Lincoln & McKinley were Republicans; Jackson was a Democrat).
- The context of the naming is important to consider, including:
 - a prominent eugenics movement (e.g. California's April 1909 Asexualization Act; the City Beautiful movement, etc.), and
 - ongoing compulsory assimilation of Indigenous youths at Native American Boarding Schools

It is unlikely that Jackson's role in ethnic cleansing would have deterred Alamedans choosing park names at the time.



PARKS ARE NAMED
AFTER PRESIDENTS

Memory of Washington, Jackson, Lincoln and McKinley Honored By Alameda

ALAMEDA, May 15.—The Board of Park and Playground Commissioners has officially adopted names for the parks in Alameda, as follows:

The park at the southwest corner of Central avenue and Eighth street will be known as "Washington Park;" at the northwest corner of Buena Vista avenue and Walnut street, "McKinley Park;" between Park and Regent streets, from Ed-

"The desire of the Playground Commission in bestowing the names of presidents on the parks is to inspire the school children with the achievements and deeds of these illustrious men."

F.N. Delaney, president of the Parks and Playground Commission to the City Council, Oakland Tribune, 1909



2017 - Attention on monuments to white supremacy



-Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville, VA

Activists topple a Confederate monument in Durham, NC-



-Alameda protest in response to UtR rally & vandalism of local synagogue

2018 - Rasheed Shabazz writes letter to Parks Commission, and receives pushback, so he creates a petition, and makes public comment at a Commission meeting



To: Alameda Recreation and Parks Commission, City Council

Rename Jackson Park

Campaign created by
Rename Jackson Park



Remove Andrew Jackson's name from Alameda's first park

Why is this important?

Make Alameda's public spaces inclusive.

Over the past five years, a renewed effort to eliminate and remove monuments to white supremacists in public space has taken place throughout these United States and the world. In addition to memorials to the Confederacy, other symbols of colonialism, slavery, and genocide have been removed or come under increased scrutiny.

In January 2018, parents at Alameda's Haight Elementary School petitioned to rename their school after learning the school's namesake, Henry H. Haight held bigoted, racist, and xenophobic views. Haight was considered a "strict Jacksonian Democrat" in the 1860s.

Alameda's first park, Jackson Park, should be renamed due to Andrew Jackson's oppression of African and Indigenous or Native American peoples. Specifically:

Jackson enslaved hundreds of African people in captivity at the Hermitage.

In addition to being a slaveowner, he earned the nickname "Indian Killer" for his participation in the murder of indigenous people.

As President, he advocated for the forced resettlement of indigenous people in the Southeast, commonly called the "Trail of Tears."

So why does Alameda have a park named after Andrew Jackson?

1,261 of 2,000 signatures

Sign the petition

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

ZIP *

Phone Number

By providing your mobile number you consent to receive cell phone and text communications from ColorOfChange and its affiliated entities concerning news and action opportunities. Message and data rates may apply. You can unsubscribe at any time by texting STOP to 225568.

SIGN

By taking action, you will also receive periodic communications from ColorOfChange.

LAST SIGNED BY:

Sara M. 1 week ago

Leslie V. 1 week ago

Jennifer R. 4 weeks ago

Emma R. 1 month ago

Francis M. 1 month ago

The image features a white background with decorative tropical foliage. In the top-left corner, there are several green leaves, including a large monstera leaf with characteristic holes and several palm fronds. In the bottom-right corner, there is another large monstera leaf and several palm fronds. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

2019 - Commission begins effort to solicit park names from the community on social media to be used for any Alameda park

2020 - Rename Jackson Park effort picks up again



RENAME JACKSON PARK

WE DEMAND:

- ✓ The removal of the "Jackson Park" name and ARPD sign from Our park.
- ✓ The Recreation and Park Commission adopt a timeline for a transparent, inclusive renaming process
- 3 Alameda develop a memorial honoring the peoples oppressed by Andrew Jackson

Remove Monuments to White Supremacy from Public Spaces in Alameda

Top left: The murder of George Floyd sparked national protests in late May-June 2020

Top right: A statue of Andrew Jackson is vandalized on the White House lawn as protestors try to topple it and end the legacy of white supremacy in public space

Bottom left: The demands of the Rename Jackson Park Community group

2020 – City Council votes to rename park

On July 9 the Recreation and Parks Commission voted unanimously to recommend to City Council that Jackson Park be renamed

The sign was removed at the end of July.



July 21 Shabazz at the sit-in when City Council voted unanimously to dename the park



Thank you, Alameda!

The work has been in movement generations before us and hidden figures continue to move the work forward. Thank you for being a part of a continuum of justice work.

**Recreation & Parks
Department**

Community Leaders

City Council

Historians

Teachers

Volunteers

Influential and Inspiring Civilians

Cultural and Social Clubs/Groups

All Community Members

Renaming Process

- A renaming committee, made up of Alameda residents and Commissioners, has met every Wednesday since September
- Established a **process and criteria**
- **Gathered name suggestions** from the community
- Pick appropriate names to **recommend** to the Recreation and Parks Commission in December
- The Commission will then recommend those names to City Council in January.

***Our criteria:** We are seeking a park name that reflects inclusion, diversity, and equity of the entire community of Alameda, and which represents social justice, human rights, and/or anti-racism. If a person's name is submitted, they must be deceased. Submitted park names should be related to Alameda and/or the greater SF Bay Area.*



Renaming Committee meeting on Zoom



Top 10 Names

in no particular order

Ohlone

Chochenyo

Fred Korematsu

Peace

Yoshiko Uchida

Mabel Tatum

Mary Rudge

Nielsen Tam

Justice

Alameda

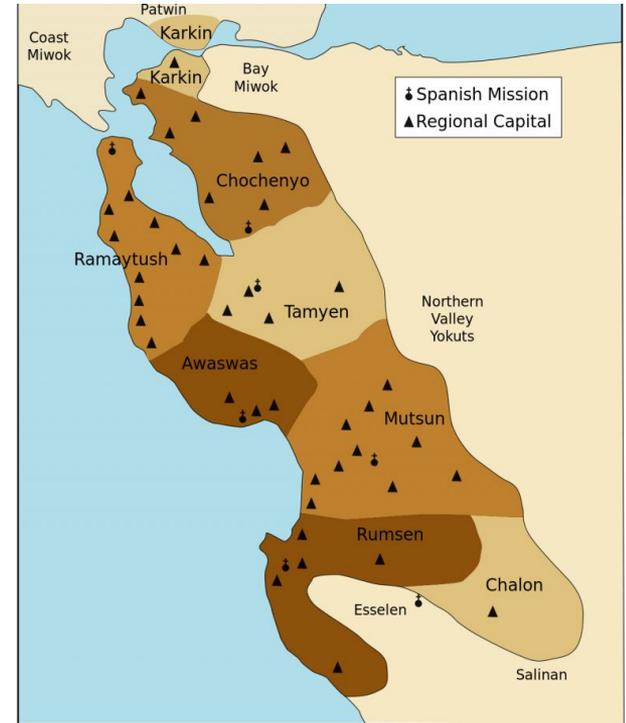
Tonight's meeting is to discuss these 10 names - not to discuss additional names.



Chochenyo

Chochenyo refers to the Ohlone language spoken by the Lisjan. The Lisjan Ohlone people lived on the land that is now known as the San Francisco East Bay and their unceded territory includes the City of Alameda.

This name fits our criteria because the Lisjan Ohlone people are not recognized by the federal government so honoring them with a park name and also bringing a land acknowledgment to City Council for approval reflects inclusion and equity as well as represents social justice, human rights and anti-racism.



Reference:

<https://native-land.ca/maps/territories/chochenyo/>

Fred Korematsu

Fred Korematsu was a Japanese American from Oakland who fought against the internment of his people in the west coast after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He refused to be interned, went into hiding but was found, and arrested. He fought the internment in court and was sent to Topaz, Utah, where he lived in a horse stall with a single light bulb for illumination.

After he appealed and was released he continued to fight racism in Utah, and in 1983 he went to court again to have his name cleared. In 1998 President Bill Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

This name fits our criteria because he fought racism and fought for equality when there was none.



Peace

Peace is an idea of unity, harmony and therefore a lack of hostility and violence. It can also mean a lack of war, like “peacetime,” or it can be a mindset one has. With peace, people can work to improve the quality of life for themselves and others.

With the history of Alameda Naval Air Station so prominent in this city’s legacy, perhaps peace would call to mind what those soldiers fought for.

This fits our criteria because we are looking to replace a name with negative connotation to a positive one; a name that welcomes cultural and ethnic diversity in our community.



Yoshiko Uchida

Yoshiko Uchida (1922-92) was an author and children's book illustrator, who wrote about her experiences as a Japanese American, including her time in a US concentration camp during World War II.

She and her family were forcibly removed from their home in Berkeley to Tanforan Racetrack Relocation Center, due to Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. They were subsequently relocated to Topaz Relocation Camp in Utah. Yoshiko Uchida taught children during internment and after the war.

This name fits our criteria because of her commitment to confronting racism, stereotypes, and xenophobia in her writing and teaching.



Mabel Tatum

Mabel Tatum was the president of the Citizens Committee for Low-Income Housing, formed by the Alameda NAACP chapter in 1964. She lived in the Estuary housing project on the Naval Base, and the Alameda Housing Authority (AHA) began to harass, intimidate, and force out Estuary residents so they could sell the land.

Mabel Tatum led a three-day sit in at the AHA Office, organized a school boycott, led a tent-in at Franklin Park, and a protest in the surrounding upper-class white neighborhood to draw attention to the treatment they were receiving. Most of Alameda's residents didn't even know the Estuary project existed before the protests.

This name fits our criteria because we only have one park named after a Black woman in Alameda. Tatum was an advocate for social justice and human rights, specifically housing rights, and she is an important figure in Alameda's history that no one knows about.



Mary Rudge

Mary Rudge (1925-2014) grew up in Texas and Oklahoma. She was the single parent of 7 children and advocated for children and social change. She travelled the world sharing poetry and became Alameda's Poet Laureate. She wrote "Jack London's Neighborhood," and several other works. She also started Alameda's poetry contest.

This name fits our criteria because only 3 parks in Alameda are named after women, Rudge was an advocate for social justice, and she contributed culture, art, and opportunities to Alameda.

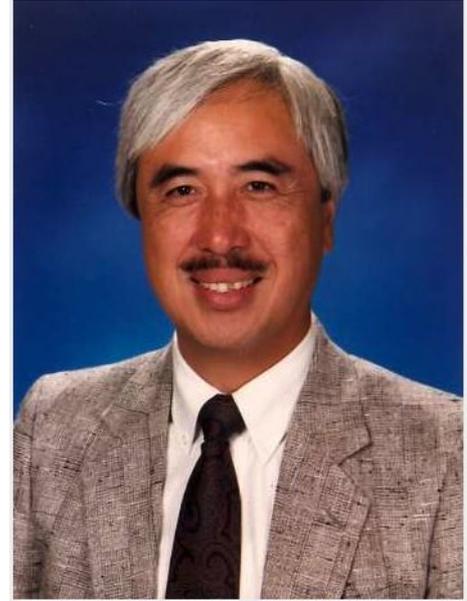


Nielsen Tam

Nielsen Tam was a Chinese American administrator with Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) and the AUSD administrative building is named after him, the “Niel Tam Educational Center”. He worked for AUSD for 38 years as a special education teacher, Vice Principal and Principal. After retirement, Niel served on the School Board.

Niel championed diversity, equity and access in the school district. He served on numerous Alameda boards - Girls Inc., Boys and Girls Club, Alameda Point Collaborative, Alameda Family Services, and the Alameda Food Bank. Niel founded the Multi-cultural Community Center and Organization of Alameda Asians. He received many awards and was honored with lifetime achievement awards from the City and County of Alameda. Niel also volunteered throughout the community and dedicated his life to public education, community services and support of all those in need.

This name fits our criteria because Niel dedicated his life to inclusion and equity for all students and fought for social justice.



Justice

The definition is **the quality of being just, impartial, or fair**. It represents the law, righteousness, and correctness in the world. It stems from the latin word, *justus*, which means right or law. The first known use of the word was in 12th century England. It was also the Merriam-Webster Dictionary 2018 Word of the Year as it represents social, criminal, and economic reform in the world.

This name fits our criteria because it represents fairness and is used to demonstrate progress in society. This value is one to represent respecting others and equality. It is one that has been connected to multiple social movements, such as BLM and LGBTQ+ Rights. Lastly, the definition of justice evolves with the world as we grow to be a more diverse community throughout the generations.



Alameda

The word “Alameda” in Spanish means “grove of trees,” or “tree-lined avenue” which is a very apt description of the park.

When this became the first park in Alameda, it was referred to as Alameda Park.

This name fits our criteria because it is inclusive and stands for all Alamedans.



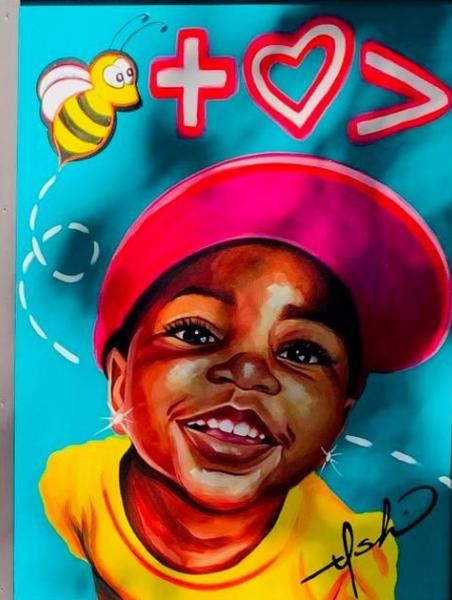
Tiffany Conway



Stephen Bruce



Ashlei Reign



Creating Our Future

November 14, 2020-April 30, 2021

Creating Our Future brings the artist's voice to the renaming of Alameda's park formerly known as Jackson. This installation is a collaboration between Rhythmic Cultural Works and the City of Alameda Recreation and Parks Department.

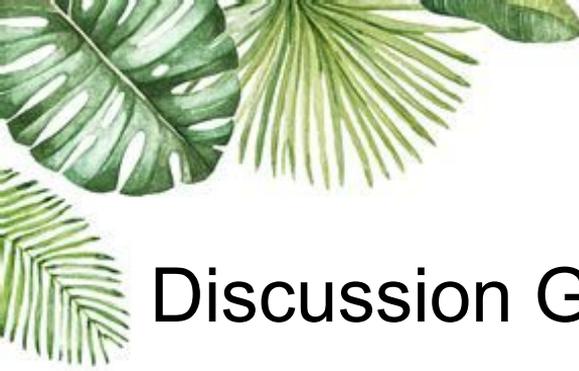
Rhythmic Cultural Works invited artist Stephen Bruce to curate this temporary art installation to replace the park's original signage during the renaming process.

In this important moment of change, the work of six different African American artists, Stephen Bruce, Abi Mustapha, Andra McCoy Harvey, Ashlei Reign, Tiffany Conway and Zoë Boston, comes together to create a vision of our future.

The park renaming effort is being led by a community renaming committee with significant input from the broader Alameda community. The Recreation and Parks Commission will review their name recommendation with a final decision by the Alameda City Council.

This installation is made possible with funding from the City of Alameda and a California Arts Council - Creative Communities grant.





Discussion Guidelines

- We are a diverse group of people with a broad range of ideas and perspectives.
 - Respect opinions even when they are different and varied.
 - If you disagree, please address the issue, not the person.
 - We want everyone to feel brave and encouraged to participate
 - Listen with an open mind.
 - **Please limit your comments to one minute so that everyone has the opportunity to speak.**
 - **If you wish to speak, raise your virtual hand. You may also post comments in the chat and it will be recorded.**
- 



Discussion Questions

1. Was there a name that stood out to you? *Complete the poll*
 - a. Why? *Please post in chat or raise your virtual hand to speak*
 2. What name represents the kind of place you want Alameda to be?
Complete the poll
 3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each name?
Please post in chat or raise your virtual hand to speak
 4. Demographics - Who are we?
- 



Thank you and wrap up

POLL: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RENAMEJACKSONPARK>
or go to alamedaca.gov/recreation and click on the Rename Jackson
Park icon on the right side. The poll will be open until Friday 11/27.

*If you are unsure, or want to learn more before ranking the names,
please take the time to reflect and do your own research, or see more
detailed information available at the website. Please encourage
others to vote as well!

